

Appl. No. 10/619,972
Amdt. dated April 4, 2006

Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2006
Attorney Docket 12622

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A harvesting combine comprising:

a body including a ~~housing and operating equipment~~, the housing extending longitudinally along, and relative to, a forward direction of travel of the harvesting combine, the housing having a front wall extending generally transverse to the longitudinally extending body and a rotary threshing assembly including a rotor having a front end located in front of the front wall, the ~~operating equipment~~ including a ~~loop elevator assembly and a grain tank~~;

a longitudinally extending cab in front of and spaced-apart from the front wall, the longitudinally extending cab having at least one longitudinally extending side; and

a platform comprising a rear platform portion, the rear platform portion positioned in the space between the cab and the body, the rear platform portion extending along the front wall, which is generally transverse to the longitudinally extending body, wherein the cab, the body, and the rear platform portion define a passageway to allow an operator to visually monitor and access the body from the platform, the passageway and the rear platform portion extending over the front end of the rotor, the platform further including at least one side platform portion connected to the rear platform portion, the at least one side platform portion located beside, and extending along, the at least one longitudinally extending side of the cab, wherein the rear platform portion and the at least one side platform portion comprise at least one generally L-shape embodiment when viewed from above, wherein the rear platform portion is supported on a bridge which has a generally inverted U-shape which extends over and defines a space containing the front end of the rotor, and wherein the rear platform

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portion is removably attached to the bridge to allow the cab to be positioned in the
passageway above the front end of the rotor.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cab is supported on the combine by a linkage assembly movable for moving the cab upwardly and rearwardly into the space-passageway and adjacent to the front wall.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3], wherein the rear platform portion between the cab and the body is located at a higher elevation than the at least one side platform portion.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the passageway has a width of approximately 18-20 inches.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6-4 wherein the bridge supports at least one step at an elevation between the rear platform portion and the at least one side platform portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7 comprising two of the at least one side platform portions beside opposite longitudinally extending sides of the cab, respectively,

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the side platform portions and the rear platform portion together having a U-shape when viewed from above.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the cab includes a back wall, the back wall including a transparent window to provide the operator with enhanced visibility behind the cab.

10 (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform includes a railing extending upward from the platform and along an outer perimeter of the platform.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the combine includes a frame, the platform being attached to the frame.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform is positioned above two front wheels of the combine.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cab includes a curved transparent front panel.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the curved transparent front panel is comprised of glass.

15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for visually monitoring operating a harvesting combine comprising:

providing a harvesting combine including a longitudinally extending body, relative to a forward direction of travel of the harvesting combine, the body including a housing and operating equipment including at least a ~~top~~ elevator assembly and a grain tank, a longitudinally extending cab spaced-apart from and in front of the body, the longitudinally extending cab having at least one longitudinally extending side, a platform including at least one side platform portion positioned beside the cab and extending along the at least one longitudinally extending side of the cab, and an elevated back platform portion connected to the at least one side platform portion and positioned between the cab and the body at an elevation higher than the side platform portion, wherein the cab, the body, and the elevated back platform portion define a passageway, and wherein the back platform portion is supported on a bridge which has a generally inverted U-shape which extends over and defines a space containing a front end of a rotor of a threshing system of the combine extending forwardly of the body of the combine; and
removably detaching the back platform portion from the bridge; and
raising the cab upwardly to position the cab in the passageway above the front end of the rotor
visually monitoring the operating equipment from the elevated back platform portion.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for visually monitoring operating a harvesting combine comprising:

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providing a harvesting combine including a longitudinally extending body, relative to a forward direction of travel of the harvesting combine, the body including a housing and operating equipment including a hopper elevator and a grain tank, a longitudinally extending cab spaced-apart from and forwardly of the body, the longitudinally extending cab having at least one longitudinally extending side, a platform including at least one side platform portion positioned beside the cab and extending along the at least one longitudinally extending side of the cab, and an elevated back platform portion connected to the at least one side platform portion and positioned between the cab and the body wherein the cab, the body, and the elevated back platform portion define a passageway, and wherein the back platform portion is supported on a bridge which has a generally inverted U-shape which extends over and defines a space containing a front end of a rotor of a threshing system of the combine extending forwardly of the body of the combine; and

releasably detaching the back platform portion from the bridge; and

positioning the cab in the passageway above the front end of the rotor to facilitate at least one of installation of the rotor and removal of the rotor

accessing the operating equipment from the elevated back platform portion.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the cab includes a back wall, the back wall including a transparent window; and

visually monitoring the operating equipment from the cab.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the transparent window is comprised of glass.

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21. (Previously Presented) A cab arrangement for a harvesting combine comprising:
a harvesting combine including a longitudinally extending body, relative to a forward direction of travel of the harvesting combine, the body including a housing and operating equipment, the operating equipment including a loop elevator assembly and having a grain tank;
a longitudinally extending cab spaced-apart from the grain tank, the longitudinally extending cab having opposite longitudinally extending sides; and
a platform including side platform portions beside opposite sides of the cab and extending longitudinally therealong, the platform further including a back platform portion connected to at least one of the side platform portions and positioned at a higher elevation than the side platform portions positioned between the cab and the grain tank, wherein the back platform portion is supported on a bridge which has a generally inverted U-shape which extends over and defines a space therebeneath containing a front end of a rotor of a threshing system of the combine extending forwardly of the body of the combine, wherein the back platform portion is releasably attached to the bridge to allow the cab to be positioned in the passageway above the front end of the rotor, and wherein the cab, the grain tank, and the back platform portion define a passageway to allow an operator to visually monitor operating equipment from the higher elevation.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the body includes a housing and operating equipment.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the operating equipment includes a loop elevator assembly and a grain tank.

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24. (New) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the linkage assembly is coupled to a feeder housing of the combine with a removable support rod so that the up and down movement of the feeder housing causes the linkage assembly to at least one of raise and lower.